UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3626	

DATE MAILED: 04/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>01 April 2002</u>.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) <u>1-17</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) <u>1-17</u> is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☒ None of:

      1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>04/09/2002</u>.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 1-17 have been examined.

Claim Objections

2.   Claim 14 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent

form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is

required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper

dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Examiner considers that

claim 14 is a dependent claim, and it is depending on independent claim 11.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4.   Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable by

Chaco et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,822,544).

A. As per claim 1, Chaco et al. discloses a system to be connected via a network

to a plurality of medical systems installed in a medical institution, configured to

manage various works performed at the medical systems, said system

comprising:

   i. a memory which stores information items relating to work

processes performed in the medical systems, each item representing the

sequence and conditions of one work process relating to one patient or

one medical examination (Chaco et al.; col. 7, lines 50-67);

ii.   an information-updating processor which updates the information

item stored in the memory to one that represents the present state of the

work process (Chaco et al.; col. 4, lines 5-18); and

iii.   a transmitter which transmits display information to the medical

systems through the network, the display information causing the medical

system to display the information items updated on the present state of

each of the work processes in such a display mode as to represent the

present state of each of the work process relating to one patient or one

medical examination (Chaco et al.; col. 3, lines 25-33 and col. 7, lines 50-

67).

B. As per claim 2, Chaco et al. discloses the system according to claim 1,

wherein each medical system comprises:

i.   a display device which displays states of the work processes being

performed at any medical systems (Chaco et al.; col. 3, lines 17-24);

ii.   a process-selecting device which is operated to select each of work

processes displayed by said display device (Chaco et al.; col. 3, lines 48-

59); and

iii.   a processor that performs the work process selected by operating

said process-selecting device (Chaco et al.; col. 3, lines 48-59).

C. As per claim 3, Chaco et al. discloses the system according to claim 2, which further comprises: an input device which is operated to input data for updating the sequences of the work processes displayed by the display device, and in which said information-updating processor updates the information items stored in said memory in accordance with the data input from said input device (Chaco et al.; col. 6, lines 41-46 and col. 10, lines 4-17).

D. As per claim 4, Chaco et al. discloses the system according to claim 2, wherein said display device controls the number of steps of each work process which is displayed and constitutes each of the information items on the basis of a preset condition (Chaco et al.; col. 10, lines 22-30).

E. As per claim 5, Chaco et al. discloses a system for managing various works in a medical institution, which comprises a plurality of medical devices or terminal devices which are connected to a network and a host computer which controls, via the network, works performed by using the medical devices or terminal devices, said host computer comprising:

    i.   a memory which stores information representing sequential steps of at least one process defining a prescribed work relating to medical service and conditions in which the medical devices or terminal devices are to perform the prescribed work (Chaco et al.; col. 7, lines 50-67 and col. 11, lines 35-47);

    ii.   an information-selecting device which selects and reads work information about a work performed on a patient, from said memory in

accordance with diagnostic data input (Chaco et al.; col. 51, lines 22-29

and lines 53-67);

iii.   a processor which controls, in accordance with the selected work

information, the sequence of a process, which is defined by the work

information about the work performed on the patient (Chaco et al.; col. 6,

line 63 to col. 7, line 9);

iv.   a controller which controls the medical devices or terminal devices

as said processor controls the sequence of a process (Chaco et al.; col.

11, lines 35-47); and

v.   a transmitter which transmits the work information selected by said

information-selecting device and representing the state of the work being

performed, to the medical devices or terminal devices (Chaco et al.; col.

19, lines 38-49 and col. 51, lines 53-67), wherein said medical devices or

terminal devices comprise display devices, respectively, which display the

work information at the same time (Chaco et al.; col. 11, line 66 to col. 12,

line 5).

F. As per claim 6, Chaco et al. discloses the system according to claim 5,

wherein each of said medical devices or terminal devices further comprises an

input device which is operated to input alteration information configured to update

the work information displayed by said display device (Chaco et al.; col. 10, lines

48-60 and col. 13, lines 31-47);

> i.   said host computer further comprises a receiver which receives the
>
> alteration information from said input device, through the network (Chaco
>
> et al.; col. 13, lines 31-47); and
>
> ii.   said processor updates the work information in accordance with the
>
> alteration information received by said receiver (Chaco et al.; col. 4, lines
>
> 5-18).

G. As per claim 7, Chaco et al. discloses the system according to claim 5,

wherein said display device controls the number of steps of each work process

which is displayed and constitutes each of the information items on the basis of a

preset condition for each of the medical devices or terminal devices (Chaco et

al.; col. 3, lines 17-24 and col. 11, line 66 to col. 7, line 5).

H. As per claim 8, Chaco et al. discloses a system for managing various works in

a medical institution, which comprises a plurality of medical devices or terminal

devices which are connected to a network and a host computer which controls,

via the network, works performed by using the medical devices or terminal

devices, said host computer comprising:

> i.   a memory which stores information representing the sequential
>
> steps of at least one process defining a prescribed work relating to
>
> medical service and the conditions in which the medical devices or
>
> terminal devices are able to perform the prescribed work (Chaco et al.;
>
> col. 7, lines 50-67);

ii.   an information-selecting device which selects and reads work information about a work performed on a patient, from the memory in accordance with diagnostic data input (Chaco et al.; col. 51, lines 22-29 and lines 53-67);

iii.   an information-updating processor which updates the work information to one representing the work now being performed in each of the medical device or terminal devices, in response to information that represents the present state of each medical device or terminal device and is transmitted from each medical device or terminal device connected to the network (Chaco et al.; col. 6, line 63 to col. 7, line 9 and col. 51, lines 22-29); and

iv.   a transmitter which transmits the work information updated by said information-updating processor to said medical devices or terminal devices (Chaco et al.; col. 19, lines 38-49 and col. 51, lines 53-67), and

v.   each of said medical devices and terminal devices comprising: a display device which displays the sequence of the work process represented by the work information selected by said information-selecting device and transmitted from said transmitter (Chaco et al.; col. 3, lines 17-24 and col. 11, line 66 to col. 12, line 5);

vi.   a controller which controls a process defined by the work information (Chaco et al.; col. 11, lines 35-47); and

vii.   a transmitter which transmits information representing a state of the

work being performed on the patient, to said host computer through the

network (Chaco et al.; col. 19, lines 38-49 and col. 51, lines 53-67).

I.   As per claim 9, Chaco et al. discloses the system according to claim 8,

wherein each of said medical devices and terminal devices further comprises an

input device which is operated to input data for updating the sequences of the

work process displayed by the display device, and in which the information-

updating processor updates the sequence of the work process in accordance

with the data input by said input device (Chaco et al.; col. 6, lines 41-46 and col.

10, lines 4-17).

J.   As per claim 10, Chaco et al. discloses the system according to claim 8,

wherein the number of steps of each work process, which is displayed by said

display device, is controlled by a condition preset for each of said medical

devices or terminal devices (Chaco et al.; col. 10, lines 22-30).

K.   As per claim 11, Chaco et al. discloses a method of managing various works

performed at medical systems installed in a medical institution, by using a system

connected to the medical systems via a network, said method comprising:

i.   updating information items relating to the work processes

performed in the medical systems (Chaco et al.; col. 4, lines 5-18), each of

the information items corresponding to one patient or one medical

inspection and representing the sequence and conditions of the work

process (Chaco et al.; col. 7, lines 50-67); and

ii.   transmitting display information to the medical systems through the

network, the display information causing the medical system to display the

information items updated on the present state of each of the work

processes in such a display mode as to represent the present state of

each of the work process relating to one patient or one medical

examination (Chaco et al.; col. 3, lines 25-33 and col. 7, lines 50-67).

L. As per claim 12, Chaco et al. discloses the method according to claim 11,

further comprising:

i.   displaying the state of the work process being performed at any

medical system that have received the display information (Chaco et al.;

col. 3, lines 17-24 and col. 11, line 66 to col. 12, line 5), and

ii.   performing a corresponding process in response to selection

indication to each of the displayed work processes (Chaco et al.; col. 30,

lines 23-45).

M. As per claim 13, Chaco et al. discloses the method according to claim 11,

wherein the information item representing the sequence of the work process is

updated when the sequence is changed (Chaco et al.; col. 6, line 63 to col. 7, line

9).

N. As per claim 14, Chaco et al. discloses the method, wherein the number of

steps of each work process, which is displayed, is controlled by a prescribed

condition (Chaco et al.; col. 6, line 63 to col. 7, line 9).

Examiner considers that claim 14 is a dependent claim, and it is

depending on independent claim 11.

O. As per claim 15, Chaco et al. discloses a method of managing various works

performed by a plurality of medical devices or terminal devices connected to a

network, said method comprising:

   i.   changing the sequence of a work process which is defined by work

   information relating to one patient or one medical inspection, in

   accordance with work information which includes an information item

   representing the sequential steps of at least one process defining a

   prescribed work relating to medical service and an information item

   representing the conditions in which the medical devices or terminal

   devices are able to perform the prescribed work (Chaco et al.; col. 22, line

   45-65);

   ii.   controlling the medical devices or terminal devices in accordance

   with the sequence of a work process, thus changed (Chaco et al.; col. 22,

   line 45-65); and

   iii.   displaying, at each of the medical devices or terminal devices, the

   work information which represents the state of the work process being

   performed (Chaco et al.; col. 3, line 17-24 and col. 11, line 66 to col. 12,

   line 5).

P. As per claim 16, Chaco et al. discloses the method according to claim 15,

wherein the information item representing the sequence of the work process is

updated when the sequence is changed (Chaco et al.; col. 6, line 63 to col. 7, line 9).

Q. As per claim 17, Chaco et al. discloses the method according to claim 15, wherein the number of steps of each work process, which is displayed, is controlled by a prescribed condition (Chaco et al.; col. 6, line 63 to col. 7, line 9).

Conclusion

5.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The cited but not used prior art teach "Patient monitoring and data processing system" 4,216,462 A, "Patient care and communication system" 5,594,786 A, "Patient care and communication system" 5,689,229 A, "Medical facility and business: automatic interactive dynamic real-time management" 5,748,907 A, "X-ray CT scanner system having a plurality of x-ray scanner apparatus" 5,751,837 A, "Apparatus for remotely monitoring controllable devices" 5,764,159 A, "Patient care and communication system" 6,259,355 B1, "Method and apparatus for remotely positioning region of interest in image" 6,500,122 B1, "Electrically controlled automated devices to control equipment and machinery with remote control and accountability worldwide" 6,647,328 B2.

6.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dilek B. Cobanoglu whose telephone number is 571-272-8295. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-4:30.

7.   If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Joseph Thomas can be reached on 571-272-6776. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

8.   Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DBC
Art Unit 3626
03/28/2006

C. LUKE GILLIGAN
PATENT EXAMINER